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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/942,898	08/30/2001	Simon J. Lovett	MICS:0071/FLE 00-0901	9847

7590 10/04/2002
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EXAMINER

PHAM, LY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/942,898

Applicant(s)

LOVETT ET AL.

Examiner

Ly D Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the applicant:
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was considered.
2. Claims 1 – 12 are presented for examination.

Election/Restrictions

3. Applicants' election with traverse of claims 1 – 12 in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged.
Though **claims 13 – 36 have been cancelled**, applicants have the right to file divisional applications covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims 13 – 21, 22 – 29, and 30 – 36.

Drawings

4. This application has been filed with figure drawings, which are acceptable for examination purposes only. More legible drawings with clear texts will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The term "tri-state" in claim 12 is not clearly defined in the specification (page12) so one skilled in the art could make use of the invention.

A proper definition of this term, as to its circuit operational functionality is required in order to overcome this type of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

8. Claims 1 and 6 –12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Klughart (US Pat 6,396,137 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Klughart discloses a system comprising:

a processor (fig. 35, CPU 3523); a power supply coupled to the processor (fig. 35, power source 3501, col. 2, lines 16 – 17); and a device coupled to the processor and the power supply (fig. 35, 3503) and comprising: an internal power supply bus (fig. 35, 3505) configured to receive a power signal from the power supply; and an isolation (fig. 35, 3502) configured to

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disconnect internal power supply bus from the power supply by interrupting of the power signal (col. 38, lines 59 – 64).

Regarding claim 5, Klughart also discloses the system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the device comprises a memory device (col. 5, lines 32 – 34).

Regarding claim 6, Klughart also discloses the system, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the internal power supply bus is configured to provide power signal to the device (fig. 35, power source 3501 supplies switching regulator 3503).

Regarding claim 7, Klughart further discloses the system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the isolation circuit is coupled between a pad on the device configured to receive the power signal and the internal power supply bus (fig. 16, Vdd pad/Vsspad, col. 8, lines 59 – 67).

Regarding claim 8, Klughart further discloses the system, as set forth in claim 1, comprising an input buffer (fig. 2, Input/output buffers 0203, col. 6, lines 58 – 61) comprising a control line configured to control the isolation circuit (col. 11, lines 9 – 11).

Regarding claim 9, Klughart further discloses the system, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the isolation circuit comprises a p-channel field effect transistor (FET) (fig. 3, PCH MOSFET as a power switch).

Regarding claim 10, Klughart further discloses the system as set forth in claim 9, wherein the gate of the p-channel FET is coupled to the control line of the input buffer (fig. 2, input buffer controlled by 0201 & 0202).

Regarding claim 11, Klughart further discloses the system, as set forth in claim 1, comprising an output buffer configured to buffer the device from the remainder of the system (fig. 2, output buffer in 0203).

Regarding claim 12, Klughart further discloses the system, as set forth in claim 11, comprising: an input/output pad (fig. 16, input Vdd pad 1602/output Vss pad 1601); and circuitry coupled between the output buffer and the input/output pad and configured to tri-state the input/output pad (fig. 16, 1611, 1612, 1613).

Regarding claims 2 – 4, the limitations claimed in these claims are considered well known in the art.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

10. When responding to the office action, Applicant(s) are advised to provide the examiner with the page and line numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.

11. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) day from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned (see MPEP 710.02(b)).

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication on earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ly Pham, whose telephone number is 703-305-4862. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm, alternate Friday off. The examiner's supervisor, David Nelms, can be reached at 703-308-4910. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Ly Pham



September 26, 2002



David Nelms
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800